

-26-

**CLAIMS:**

What is claimed is:

1. A method of estimating remaining life of a battery that powers an implantable medical device (IMD), comprising the steps of:
  - obtaining a measurement indicative of voltage provided by the battery;
  - obtaining an estimation of past current drain on the battery; and
  - determining the estimated remaining life of the battery from the measurement indicative of voltage and the estimation of past current drain.
2. The method of Claim 25, wherein step c.) includes determining an estimated remaining life for an average battery.
3. The method of Claim 25, wherein step b.) includes obtaining an impedance measurement of a load drawing current from the battery.
4. A system for monitoring life of a battery, comprising:
  - a sensing circuit to measure voltage provided by the battery; and
  - a processing circuit coupled to the sensing circuit to calculate past current drain on the battery and to further determine, based on the measured voltage and the past current drain, an estimated remaining life of the battery.